

## CLAIMS

1. A repeater for receiving a packet, in which a target value of a transfer rate is shown including divided data obtained by dividing transfer data into a prescribed data length, determining a route in a communication network to send out the packet, storing the packet having a determined route in storing means, and sending out the packet stored in the storing means to the communication network by the determined route at set sending time intervals, comprising:

means for calculating the sending time intervals to send out the packet to the communication network, based on the target value of the transfer rate shown in the received packet and the data length of the divided data;

means for setting the sending time intervals thus calculated as the sending time intervals of the packet;

target value determining means for determining the target value of a delay time required for repeating the packet;

means for calculating a reference value of a storage capacity of the packet to be stored in the storing means, based on the delay time target value and the sending time intervals; and

means for determining the necessity of discarding the packet, based on the reference value of the storage capacity thus calculated and a capacity of the packet stored in the storing means.

2. The repeater as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the received packet includes total delay time information  
showing the target value of the delay time from a sender to a  
receiver, and

the target value determining means detects the number of  
devices to be passed through on the route in the communication  
network from the sender to the receiver, and determines the target  
value of the delay time by dividing the time shown by the total delay  
time information included in the packet by the number thus  
calculated.

3. The repeater as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the received packet includes remaining delay time  
information showing the target value of the delay time from its own  
device to the transmission destination, and

the target value determining means detects the number of  
devices to be passed through on the route in the communication  
network up to the transmission destination, and determines the  
target value of the delay time by dividing the time shown by the  
remaining delay time information included in the packet, by the  
number of the devices thus detected.

4. The repeater as set forth in any one of claims 1 through 3,  
further comprising:

means for detecting the number of discarded packets; and

means for changing the setting of the storage capacity reference value and the sending time intervals, when the number of the packets thus detected exceeds a prescribed value.

5. A communication system having a transmitter connected to a communication network and transmitting a packet, and a receiver receiving the packet transmitted from the transmitter, comprising:

the repeater as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, connected to the communication network, and repeating the packet transmitted from the transmitter to the receiver.

6. A control circuit, used in a repeater for receiving a packet, in which a target value of a transfer rate is shown including divided data obtained by dividing transfer data into a prescribed data length, determining a route in a communication network to send out the packet, and sending out the packet to the communication network by the route thus determined, for storing the packet having a determined route in storing means and sending out it to the communication network, comprising:

means for calculating the sending time intervals to send out the packet to the communication network, based on the target value of the transfer rate shown in the received packet and the data length of the divided data;

means for setting the sending time intervals thus calculated

as the sending time intervals of the packet;

means for determining the target value of a delay time required for repeating the packet;

means for calculating a reference value of a storage capacity of the packet to be stored in the storing means, based on the delay time target value and the sending time intervals;

means for determining the necessity of discarding the packet, based on the reference value of the storage capacity thus calculated and a capacity of the packet stored in the storing means; and

means for sending out the packet stored in the storing means from the repeater at set sending time intervals.

7. A connector having a first connecting means connected to a repeater to receive a packet in which a target value of a transfer rate is shown including divided data obtained by dividing transfer data into a prescribed data length, determine a route in a communication network to send out the packet and send out the packet having a determined route, and a second connecting means connected to the communication network, comprising:

storing means for storing the packet sent out to the communication network;

means for receiving the packet having the determined route from the repeater through the first connecting means;

means for calculating sending time intervals at which the packet is sent out to the communication network, based on a target

value of the transfer rate shown in the received packet and a data length of divided data;

means for setting the sending time intervals thus calculated as the sending time intervals of the packet;

means for determining the target value of a delay time required for repeating the packet;

means for calculating a reference value of a storage capacity of the packet to be stored in the storing means, based on the delay time target value and the sending time intervals;

means for determining the necessity of discarding the packet, based on the reference value of the storage capacity thus calculated and a capacity of the packet stored in the storing means; and

means for sending out the packet stored in the storing means from the second connecting means to the communication network by the determined route at the set sending time intervals.

8. A computer program for controlling a computer to receive a packet, in which a target value of a transfer rate is shown including divided data obtained by dividing transfer data into a prescribed data length, determine a route in a communication network to send out the packet, store the packet having a determined route in storing means to send out it to the communication network by a computer for sending out the packet to the communication network on the route, said computer program causing the computer to execute the following procedure of:

calculating time intervals to send out the packet to the communication network, based on the target value of the transfer rate shown in the received packet and the data length of the divided data;

setting sending time intervals thus calculated as the sending time intervals of the packet;

determining a target value of a delay time required for repeating the packet;

calculating a reference value of a storage capacity of the packet stored in the storing means, based on a delay time target value and the sending time intervals; and

setting the reference value of the storage capacity thus calculated as the storage capacity reference value, used as a criterion for deciding discard of the packet.